



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

tions. The question whether such limits have been surpassed is hardly one for the courts, though our author sometimes seems to consider it as such. Further, although he does not exaggerate the importance of the function of our courts in applying constitutional restrictions as a protection against the populist legislation so characteristic of our day, he forgets that the duty of the courts is simply to decide judicial questions by the application of strict rules of law, not to supervise the legislature in the exercise of its wide discretion within the Constitution. The assumption of such a right by the courts can only be fraught with danger. The only appeal from the abuse by the legislature of its discretionary power is to the people.

W. H. H.

REGISTERING TITLE TO LAND. By Jacques Dumas, LL. D. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1900. pp. 106.

This little volume comprises a series of five lectures delivered by the author in 1899-1900 at Yale. The general interest which the question of registration of title now has for the American public, in view of the adoption of the Torrens system of registration of title by several states, renders the publication of M. Dumas's luminous exposition of the subject doubly welcome. The author begins by distinguishing registration of deeds from registration of title. He then traces the history of registration of title in several countries that have adopted that method, — Australia, Austria, and Prussia. A chapter apiece is devoted to the English and French systems of registration, and their respective defects are pointed out. In the last chapter, after enumerating the other countries where registration of title prevails, the author concludes by summing up the advantages of the system owing to its simplicity and economy. As he justly remarks, the thing that prevents registration of title from being everywhere adopted is simply the opposition of the legal profession — owing, as he says, to a fear of its advantages much more than of its deficiencies. But conceding that registration of title has all the merits claimed for it by the author, some doubt has been expressed as to its compatibility with the "due process of law" clause of our Constitution. With this phase of the question M. Dumas does not deal. It was thought that the national Supreme Court would have to pass on this matter in a recent Massachusetts appeal, but it is now feared that the decision will go off on another point. This difficulty as to constitutionality once removed, everything would seem to point to a prevalence of similar legislation throughout the country.

F. R. T.

We have also received: —

A TREATISE UPON THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF TAXATION IN MISSOURI. By Frederick N. Judson. Columbia, Missouri: E. W. Stephens. 1900. pp. xiv, 358. A discussion of the principles of taxation with reference to one particular state does not limit the interest of the work to the boundaries of that state, for the problems of taxation are general ones and are met in very similar ways throughout the Union. This is particularly true of Mr. Judson's work, as he considers his subject broadly, and frequently makes reference to the tax laws of other states. The book is divided into three parts: the history of taxation in Missouri, present-day taxation in that state, and taxation of the future. The present system in Missouri

is discussed at length and its chief errors pointed out; especially the failure of the general property tax in securing uniformity of assessment, — it ranges 33 per cent. of the actual value in the country districts to 70 per cent. in the city of St. Louis, — and the worse than failure of the personal property tax, which by reason of the ease and frequency with which it is evaded puts a premium on dishonesty. In discussing taxation of the future the author lays great stress upon the taxation of franchises, and refers with approval to the recently adopted franchise tax law of New York. He hopes for a more equable system of assessment of real estate, and the abolition of such inquisitorial taxes as those on personal property and personal incomes. His discussion of the subject is adequate, and his conclusions seem sound. The book should prove valuable to all who are interested in the subject.

HAND BOOK OF FIRE INSURANCE. By Frank R. Fairweather. With articles on the Duties of Agents and Sub-Agents and a Digest of the Fire Insurance Cases of the Maritime Provinces of Canada. By Reginald R. Fairweather, B. C. L. St. John: The Globe Publishing Co., Ltd. 1900. pp. v, 208. The authors in this book have given us a valuable addition to the various insurance publications. The work, while not exclusively a legal one, will be found of considerable worth by lawyers, as to every lawyer handling insurance business a practical knowledge of the methods and requirements of insurance companies and the nature of the risks assumed is essential. The authors have very satisfactorily treated this non-legal portion of the work, bringing out the salient points clearly yet concisely. The subject of the Duties of Agents and Sub-Agents is ably handled, and the chapters devoted to Parol Agreements and Forms of Policies are well worth perusal. But perhaps the chief value of the book to members of the legal profession is the admirable Digest of the Maritime Provinces Insurance Cases and Appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada. These cases are very fully digested and the points decided distinctly stated. The book, while of especial importance to Canadians, is not without interest in this country, as the Canadian courts are recognized as furnishing us with many of the most noteworthy cases on insurance law. The authors' style is good, the arrangement excellent, and the book is singularly readable.

OUTLINE STUDY OF LAW. By Isaac Franklin Russell. Third edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1900. pp. xix, 344. It is not surprising that the demand for Professor Russell's book should have justified a third edition, and this in spite of the fact that the work is open to some criticism. It is not strictly a text-book, but aims to give in brief compass an outline of the whole field of law. The scope is very broad, including even international law, constitutional interpretation, and questions of national polity. The necessity for extreme brevity makes it impossible to develop and qualify general principles, explain definitions, and indicate the application of broad rules to particular cases sufficiently to make the book of much value to either lawyers or students who wish to find out what the law is on particular points. And when due allowance has been made for the difficulty of adequate presentation in so narrow a space, some statements seem unnecessarily vague or even misleading. In spite of these objections, however, the layman or the beginner, desirous of knowing what the law is like, will find the book both helpful and